



York County Junior Master Gardeners Encourage Public's Participation In National Public Lands Day

Yorktown, Sept. 18 —Public school grounds in York County will get some sprucing up on Saturday, Sept. 30, courtesy of York County's Junior Master Gardeners and any member of the public who would like to participate as they "**Get Down & Dirty for America**" to observe National Public Lands Day (NPLD).

National Public Lands Day, sponsored by the National Environmental Education and Training Foundation and Toyota, and supported by York County's Virginia Cooperative Extension office, is the nation's largest hands-on volunteer effort to improve and enhance the public lands Americans enjoy. In 2005, nearly 90,000 volunteers built trails and bridges, planted trees and plants, and removed trash and invasive plants. York County residents of all ages are invited to pull on work gloves and help give local schoolyards a beautification boost.

PTAs from four elementary schools are organizing workdays in conjunction with NPLD. At Mt. Vernon Elementary School and Yorktown Elementary School, workdays will run from 9 a.m. to noon. Workday times Seaford Elementary School will be 3-7 p.m. Workday hours at Coventry Elementary School will be announced shortly. Project lists vary from one school site to another, but most will involve some combination of litter removal, weeding, pruning, raking, and grounds maintenance.

Organizers at each school will be on hand to direct volunteers. Children under 13 must be accompanied by a participating adult volunteer. Bring work gloves if you have them. A limited supply of garden tools will be available at each school.

For more information about the local NPLD effort, contact Jody Turner at 867-1135, or by e-mail at turnertribe@cox.net.

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